

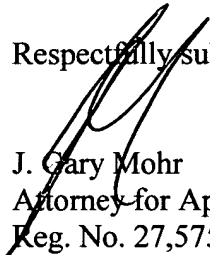
Remarks/Arguments

As to the Examiner's Election/Restriction Request, Applicants did so on October 3, 2003, see attached.

In response to the Examiner's rejection of Claims 1 – 5 under 35 USC 102 based upon Ressemann et al, United States Patent 5,921,958, Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 3 by inserting in said claims the following language, "for removal of the guide wire once the catheter is properly placed". In Ressemann column 15, lines 65 – 67 it clearly states that if the tip has a larger diameter then the guide wire cannot be withdrawn. Since in the present application, the guide wire is withdrawn after proper placement notwithstanding the diameter of the tip of the guide wire Ressemann teaches opposite of the present invention and therefore, Ressemann does not constitute an anticipation under 35 USC 102. Since claims 2, 4 and 5 are dependant on either Claim 1 or Claim 3, they too are not anticipated by Ressemann.

Applicants, in view of the above respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the presently pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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